



CITY OF CHICOPEE

Department of Public Work

PARKS DIVISION

687 Front Street Chicopee, MA.

RECREATION OFFICE 413-594-3481 413-594-3486 (fax.)

Carolyn Porter
Parks Superintendent

Richard Maciolek
Assistant Superintendent

Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes for Tuesday, August 25, 2015

- A. At 7:06pm, Motion to call meeting to order by Gary Ziemba. Second by William Courchesne. Approved

Attendance: Doug Girouard, Chair, Commissioners present included: Nancy Fenton, Elizabeth Montemagni, William Courchesne and Gary Ziemba. Also present, Supt Carolyn Porter and Assistant Supt Rich Maciolek

- B. **Minutes of last meeting:** June 23, 2015. Motion to accept the minutes made by Nancy Fenton. Seconded by William Courchesne. Approved.

- C. **Motion** to suspend meeting to hear from guests made by Gary Ziemba. Seconded by Nancy Fenton. Approved

Lorraine's Kitchen and Food Pantry representative Andrea Marion was in to discuss all the details associated with the Reach the Beach Trail Run on Sept 12, being held at Williams Park with the trail leading through mostly Chicopee State Park land. A contract for the race itself was reviewed as well as an agreement regarding the sale and consumption of alcohol on the site. Doug Girouard expressed concern about the contracts. A motion was made to approve the plan as described in the agreements by Nancy Fenton and Seconded by William Courchesne. Approved.

Motion to return to regular Parks Commission Meeting by William Courchesne. Seconded by Elizabeth Montemagni. Approved.

- D. **Communications:**

1. St. Anne Parish Picnic will be held on Sunday, September 20, 2015 at the Moose Club. Request to borrow a few recreational equipment items to be returned promptly on Monday Sept 21, 2015 Motion to loan requested recreational equipment was made by Gary Ziemba. Seconded by Nancy Fenton. Approved.

2. Request to use Gazebo for a wedding ceremony on October 16, 2015 by Jesnia Cabrera and Michael Tantaio with 25 guests. Michael is a current resident of Chicopee. Motion to approve use of gazebo was made by Nancy Fenton. Seconded by William Courchesne. Approved.

3. Request by Joan of Arc School for use of Ray Ashe Park for a walk-a-thon and access to bathrooms. September 25, 2015

Motion to approve this use of Ashe Park was made by Elizabeth Montemagni. Second by Gary Ziemba.

- E. **Recreation Report** - Report received by Commission

- Adult leagues: Baseball, Softball. # of teams: 16 Men's, 8 Women's, 11 Co-ed. Greatest single source of revenue to park fees account \$5,387.30. Cost per player is \$5/game or less and many teams have subsidized this with business sponsors.
- Adult Programs: Fitness, Yoga to begin again in the Fall
- Youth Rec Leagues – soccer has 28 teams from K of C, Tigers and St. Stan's joining the Quabin Valley League.
- Soccer sport league officials rate of pay requested for each ref for each game at the following levels: Grade 3/4 \$11, Grade 5/6 \$12 and Grade 7/8 \$13. Motion to approve new rates made by Gary Ziemba. Seconded by Elizabeth Montemagni. Approved

5. Aquatics Programs: Swim Lessons, lap swim, open swim and aqua aerobics will all be available in Sept. see flyers
6. New program – Women’s Indoor Basketball Fall League. Building upon the success of the summer league we will be offering this for 8 weeks.
7. Summer Park Programs – very successful Park Playground program transitioned from spray park monitors to Recreation activity leaders. One Commissioner reported favorable comments was made by a park visitor about John Griffin’s leadership and manner. John is the Program Coordinator for the playground staff.
8. Summer: OPEE Summer Program – sold out all sessions – details to follow next month
List of donors for OPEE Picnic provided to city Council for acceptance.
9. Youth Summer Sport Camps participants: 32 boys lacrosse, 13 girls lacrosse, 28 girls basketball, 50 boys basketball, 0 football.

F. Maintenance Report – Report received by Commission

1. Tasks Accomplished in July and August– Diamonds prepared for games and practices (over 700), Mowing and trimming all park parcels and cemeteries, Equipment maintenance, Pool preparations, spray pad repairs, pool assessments, painting soccer fields and diamond foul lines, Preparations for June 27th fireworks event, Repair and paint for program meeting room at Front Street office, repair to playground equipment, paint picnic table, install new picnic tables at Wisniowski Park, cut out and repair diamonds, Pick up trash at all parks 1-2x a week, install playground safety surfacing in 8 parks, Cemetery: cut and trim, pour foundations.
2. Parks Labor Force: 5 openings remain – (1) 3GL, (1) 4GL and (3) 5GL interviews 8/26

G. Old Business:

1. Wisniowski Park-Our Common Backyards Grant update. Phase II w/ CDBG funds. A meeting with Planning, Mayor and Community Development Director giving permission to proceed with design plans for phase 2. A request has been made of Mt View to add an additional coating of anti slip sealer to the water spray surface as it appears very slippery at the moment. Park staff are assigned to warn the public when the spray is open as well as signage.
2. Update Szot Phase 2 & phase 3 - AAB decision, following up on status of Gardner Contract for accessible pathways which is moving through the signature process.
3. Update Pool repairs - River Pool operated smoothly following repairs. Update on pool renovations for other pools- testing results.
4. Chicopee Community Garden Council – MOU status, ground breaking Aug 1st. Recommendation to install elevated garden plots for accessibility access. Next step is determining how to give away the plots for next spring.
Motion to approve MOU with Community Gardens made by Gary Ziemba. Second by Elizabeth Montemagni. Approved
5. Summer Plans as alternatives to outdoor pools: summer concert series, Movie Nights, Children’s Performers, inflatables- budget
6. Rivers Park parking lot line painting – working with Franklin Paint to have training to use pavement line painting machine.
7. Large group rental guidelines – no new info.
8. Concerns regarding repairs needed for Szot Tennis court surface – Planed as early Fall work.
9. Request that leaves be removed from Nash Park and the soccer goals as well as one is broken and the site is closed.

H. New Business:

1. PARC Grant – final copy – seeking approval. Motion to approve by Nancy Fenton. Second by William Courchesne. Approved
2. Lorraine’s Kitchen Race to the Beach Sept 19 at Williams Park, alcohol permit request.
Addressed above.
3. Lincoln Grove Resource Center – update – IT changes, renovations, Health Dept, Building Dept and Fire Dept have toured site. 2 job descriptions need approval for staff at Lincoln Grove

Resource Center. Motion to approve job descriptions by Elizabeth Montemagni. Second by William Courchesne. Approved

4. Youth sports community meeting with organizational representatives Sept 21 – seeking outside facilitator
5. June 27, Independence Day Celebration & Fireworks event – feedback includes: site security issues, Gate monitors, more police presence. Need for more food vendors dispersed around entire site, not just inside stadium area.
6. National Night Out – significant contribution by Parks Dept and Recreation Leaders
7. Parks Department Facebook page up and running.
8. Upcoming events: Movie Night Teddy Bear Picnic and Paddington movie, Chicopee Block Party Sept 12. Noon to 9pm. The Dept will have a table set up and give away balloons and program flyers.
9. Fairview playground – partnership with school and PAC– seeking Commission approval
10. Request for access to pass a water main through Williams Park by Tighe & Bond for City. Meeting scheduled for Aug 27
11. Encumbrances for FY 2015
12. Surplus Property Committee request – Motion to approve these miscellaneous items for disposal by Elizabeth Montemagni, Second by Nancy Fenton. Approved.
13. Request that Special Olympics football team have use of Nash Field. Motion to Approve by Elizabeth Montemagni. Second by Nancy Fenton. Approved
14. Inquiry about installing an accessible platform swing at Szot or Rivers. Both South Hadley and Belchertown have one.
15. A warm thanks to William Courchesne for his service.
16. Other new business.

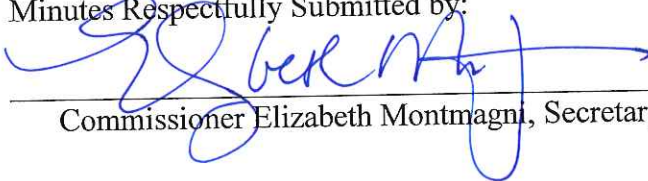
I. Assistant Superintendent's Report

Projects: Summer Food Program, for Fairview Park & OPEE – reimbursements will be processed.

J. Meeting adjourn motion made by Gary Ziemba. Seconded by William Courchesne. Approved

K. Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 29, 2015

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by:



Commissioner Elizabeth Montmagni, Secretary